

Approved For Release 2002/05/17 : CIA-RDP73B00296R000300070014-7

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 30, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: EGIL KROGH, JR.

FROM: G. GORDON LIDDY

SUBJECT: MEETING HELD JULY 30, 1971 RE ALLEGED SOUTH VIETNAMESE
OFFICIAL DRUG TRAFFICKING; REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION
TESTIMONY - SENATE

A meeting was held at 3:30 p.m. on July 30, 1971, in the office of Mr. John Lehman, Staff Member, National Security Council. Attending were Egil Krogh, Jr., Wally Johnson of the Justice Department, Jeff Donfeld of the Special Action Office for Drug Abuse Prevention, John Ingersoll of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, John Maury, Legislative Counsel, CIA, and [] of the CIA and Gordon Liddy.

The meeting was called in response to the opening statement of Senator Edmund Muskie at the joint drug abuse hearings on this date of the Subcommittees on Intergovernmental Relations and Executive Reorganization and Government Research (a copy of Senator Muskie's remarks is attached).

Senator Percy stated publicly at the conclusion of the hearings his intention to hold as hostage against compliance with the Subcommittees' request for testimony in Executive Session on the question of the alleged involvement of high South Vietnamese officials in drug trafficking, the Administration's bill to provide a Special Action Office for Drug Abuse Prevention, headed by Dr. Jerome Jaffe.

Points discussed and decisions reached were as follows:

(1) We ought not to break long-standing precedent by opening raw intelligence files to the Congress. This is bad practice both from the point of view of the conduct of professional intelligence activity and of ethical treatment of those accused.

(2) There should be some communication with the Subcommittees by way of a "peace offering" even if the substance offered will presumably be considered inadequate by the committee members.

(3) The prospective witness should rely heavily for guidance on the President's answer to question on this subject at his press conference a few days hence.

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(4) For tactical reasons, the offer of testimony should be scheduled for Friday, August 6th.

(5) The witness should state that his appearance is in response to Dr. Jaffe's conveying the Committee's feelings on the matter to the President.

(6) The theme of the testimony should be foreign policy considerations versus disclosure of preliminary and unevaluated intelligence data.

It was the consensus of the group that the theme could most logically be articulated by a knowledgeable official of the Department of State. The candidate suggested was Mr. Marshall Green.

Mr. Maury mentioned that Mr. Helms believed that for the sake of good order he should dispatch a bland note to the Committee in response to its invitation to him to appear. It was agreed that the text thereof should be reviewed by Mr. Krogh.

It was further agreed that implementation of these decisions should be undertaken immediately.

cc: Wally Johnson
Jeff Donfeld
John Ingersoll
John Maury ✓



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